



Detroit Working Writers
est. 1900

July 2021 Newsletter

IN CONTEXT

Happy July! From recent emails in your inbox, you know that the DWW board has been busy! We met through Zoom on June 5 and talked about the online directory, started a survey on how members learned about DWW, and penciled in ideas for programs for the coming year. We plan to keep using Zoom as part of the mix for connecting with members. For instance, Aline Soules, who lives in California, regularly participates in Saturday morning Zoom events.

Our tentative plans: two Zoom events and two in-person social events. With uncertainty about the coronavirus, our in-person plans for the next year will remain written in pencil, not ink. I'll share more ideas about programs in the next newsletter.

I'd like to take one last look at our May event with Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey. Some of you may know I like to look at events through a philosophical eye. The event with Trethewey was no exception. She quoted from Mark Doty's book *Souls on Ice*: "Our metaphors go on ahead of us. They know before we do...they serve as a container for emotion and idea, a vessel that can hold what's too slippery or charged or difficult to touch."

With that in mind, I recently worked with our website expert, Barb D., to update the DWW website. I'd submit changes, then wait to see how they looked on my computer and cell phone. But after a day of multiple changes, I didn't see the last batch although Barb said they were done. When I asked her about that, she said I couldn't see the latest changes because my computer was looking at old cached files. To see the new updates, I had a choice: wait until tomorrow or clear my cache today.

I thought: There's a metaphor for my life! Sometimes I can't see what's really there because the past (the old cache) gets in the way.

I didn't wait. I cleared my cache.

Cindy Hampel
DWW President

Silent Writing Is Treasured Me-Time For DWW Members Near And Far

By Cindy Hampel

DWW Silent Writing Time is like "a hotel room with a 'Do Not Disturb' sign."

That's the opinion of Sandy White, a member who regularly participates in the Saturday Zoom event from 10-to-11:30 a.m. The metaphor comes easily for White, who lives north of Port Huron and works as marketing director of the Michigan Bed and Breakfast Association.

"I suffer from job creep," White said. "When blogging, social media, video production, and email marketing deadlines deplete my hours, my creative energy is spent, too. But I regard Saturday Silent Writing as if the time were a hotel room with a 'Do Not Disturb' sign."

White said she starts preparing for each session the night before. "When the session begins, I am focused and ready to tap the keys. It doesn't matter that each of us is working on a different type of writing. I'm in community with others attempting to mine gray matter for gold. I highly encourage others to participate."

Silent Writing Time is the brainchild of Past President Roberta Brown.

"It was birthed from the pandemic," Brown said. "After Michiganders were required to 'Stay at Home,' I decided something needed to be done quickly to keep DWW active. On March 18, 2020, I sent out a blast email inviting members to join me in the DWW Zoom Room that coming Saturday, March 21."

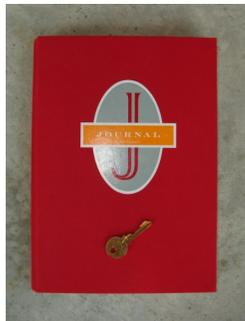
The response was so great, Brown said, that the original 10-11 a.m. time frame expanded one half hour. An added benefit: members who could not normally participate in DWW activities due to distance "now attend on a regular basis."

The Zoom format allows members to participate even if they live outside the Detroit Metro Area, like White, and Algonac resident Angela Rochon.

(continued on Page 3)



On a warm day in May, Roberta Brown transfers the Presidential Red Journal and Post Office Box Key to Cindy Hampel. Like the Service Award delivery in April, the “transfer ceremony” complies with official guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, with both parties fully vaccinated and the “ceremony” held outside. What a difference a month makes! (Photo above by Ray Litwinowicz)



Brown Transfers to Hampel the President’s Red Journal and Post Office Box Key

If you believe that turnabout is fair play, then fair play ruled the day on a fair day in May.

Last month’s newsletter featured a picture of Cindy Hampel delivering a Service Award to Roberta Brown in April for her tenure as President from 2019 to 2021. Cindy’s picture request was a surprise to Roberta, but she was a good sport and went along.

Then Roberta insisted that DWW should also memorialize the moment when she would hand Cindy the key to the DWW Post Office Box in Royal Oak and the President’s Red Journal.

The Red Journal is a ledger that the President uses for recording incoming DWW checks. Several years back, DWW began a new financial policy that separates who receives and deposits checks and who pays the bills. So, transferring the Red Journal and the Post Office Box Key is now a thing for DWW. And now it is officially documented.

The deed was done on May 21. And truth be told, it still was fun.

Share Your Good News on DWW’s Electronic Platforms

DWW can help you spread the word about your published writing, awards, writing-related events, and personal achievements. Share your writing news on our Web site, and at our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn sites. The newsletter will include not only your writing-related news but also personal achievements and milestones. *For the newsletter, the Member Achievements and Milestones section is retrospective only.* If your publication, book, or event has a website link, please include that at the same time you submit your notice. For prospective news from members, please contact Social Media Co-Chairs Richard Stiennon and Terry Hojnacki. Stiennon asks you to send him your Twitter handle so he can add your name to the curated list of DWW members. Hojnacki advises members to keep their submissions “short and sweet.” Include the who-what-when-where-why and a link to your event or where others may purchase your book. Submit upcoming events on social media at least two-to-three weeks beforehand. ***Please email each contact person directly for the media outlets you want to use.***

DWW MEDIA OUTLET	CONTACT	EMAIL and DEADLINE
Newsletter (emailed directly to members only)	Cindy Hampel	cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com by the 22nd for next month’s edition
Website https://www.detworkingwriters.org/	Cindy Hampel	cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com at least 3 weeks before the event
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/detroitworkingwriters	Terry Hojnacki	Socialmedia4dww@gmail.com at least 2-3 weeks before the event
Twitter https://twitter.com/DetWkgWriters/	Richard Stiennon	richard@it-harvest.com ongoing
LinkedIn https://linkedin.com/company/15953515	Richard Stiennon	richard@it-harvest.com ongoing

DWW Calendar for July and Early August 2021

DATE	TIME	DWW EVENT and LOCATION	CONTACT NAME and DEADLINE
Saturday July 3, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 2
Saturday July 10, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 9
Saturday July 10, 2021	Noon to 2:00 p.m.	DWW CRITIQUE GROUP @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 11:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By June 28
Saturday July 17, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 16
Saturday July 24, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 23
Saturday July 31, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By July 30
Saturday August 7, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By August 6
Saturday August 14, 2021	10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	DWW SILENT WRITING TIME @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By August 13
Saturday August 14, 2021	Noon to 2:00 p.m.	DWW CRITIQUE GROUP @ DWW Zoom Room <i>Link sent by email at 11:45 a.m.</i>	Roberta Brown rlbrown417@gmail.com By August 2

Silent Writing Time Offers Both Structure And Flexibility

(continued from Page One)

“Writing is a solitary endeavor,” Rochon said, “so I appreciate the silent time” as well as the group discussion.

Another regular Silent Writer lives three time zones away. Aline Soules joined DWW as a Michigan resident in 1995. Now she lives in California. Soules said she is grateful for Brown’s “stalwart leadership” of the Silent Writing Program. As a morning person, Soules said, she doesn’t mind being online from 7-8:30 a.m. “If Roberta decided to switch to 9-10:30 a.m., with me online at 6 a.m., I’d still be happy.”

What do people write during Silent Writing Time?

“Books, poems, short stories, memoirs and flash fiction” are just some examples, Brown said, adding that writers have already published some of the works they’ve produced during Silent Writing.

If you’d like to participate, email Brown no later than the day before the session to let her know you want to join in. Then look for the Zoom invitation in your email on Saturday at 9:45 a.m. Click on the Zoom link. At 10 a.m., Brown starts the session with a brief discussion, asking all participants what they plan to work on.

Then the group stays connected to the Zoom meeting...however, members switch off their video and audio as the writing begins. At 11:20 a.m., participants stop writing and rejoin the group with audio and video to share a few words about their Silent Writing experience.

Pat Gibson is another regular Silent Writer.

“The pandemic pushed me into the house,” Gibson said, “and DWW’s Silent Writing opened a door to the outside. Each week I count on Saturday morning Zoom-based writing. It adds structure, commitment, and opportunity to discuss craft ups and downs with others.”

Member Achievements and Milestones

CHRISTIAN BELZ's poem, "The Fun Season," won Second Place in the Sixth Annual [Yule Love It Lavender Farm Poetry Contest](#).

ROBERTA BROWN's poetry broadside, "Mallard Duck Couple," was selected for inclusion in a poetry art exhibition, [Reconnecting Through Poetry](#), hosted by the Peter White Public Library in Marquette, Michigan, that started on June 21, 2021.

DIANA DINVERNO's poem, "In a Thousand Years," was published in Volume 6, Issue 2 of the [MockingHeart Review](#).

JACK FERGUSON's poem, "To Draw a Rainbow," won First Place in the Sixth Annual [Yule Love It Lavender Farm Poetry Contest](#).

LINDA NEMEC FOSTER's poem, "The Bamboo Forest on Maui—Night," was published in the Spring Issue of *Crosswinds* [Poetry Journal](#), Volume VI.

LINDA NEMEC FOSTER read poems from "The Blue Divide" and presented a video/poem for [The Greatest Indoor Reading Series](#) on June 11, 2021.

LINDA NEMEC FOSTER's prose poems, "The Judge from Central Poland" and "The Street Cleaners of Krakow," were published in the most recent issue of [The MacGuffin](#) (Volume XXXVII, Number 1).

LINDA NEMEC FOSTER's poem, "My Father's Music," was published in the most recent issue of the [Paterson Library Review](#), (Issue 48).

CINDY LA FERLE's newspaper column, "Sunny Side Up: Please be nice to your server in these stressful times," was published on June 14, 2021, in several [MediaNews Group](#) newspapers, including The Oakland Press, the Macomb Daily, and the Daily Tribune.

MICHELLE MOROUSE's flash fiction, "Left to their own devices," was published in the Summer 2021 Issue of [The Citron Review](#).

LINDA SIENKIEWICZ served as judge for the Sixth Annual [Yule Love It Lavender Farm Poetry Contest](#).

RICHARD STIENNON'S book, [Security Yearbook 2021](#), was published in June 2021.

YOUR DWW BOARD MEMBERS June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023

PRESIDENT

Cindy Hampel

VICE PRESIDENT

Michelle Morouse

SECRETARY

Laura Hedgecock

TREASURER

Michael Kitchen

CRITIQUE GROUP CO-CHAIRS

Roberta Brown

Pat Gibson

SOCIAL MEDIA CO-CHAIRS

Terry Hojnacki

Richard Stiennon

BOOK-AND-AUTHOR CHAIR

Theresa Nielsen

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER CHAIR

Cindy Hampel

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Cindy Hampel

HONORARY DIRECTOR

Kathleen Ripley Leo

Both the online and offline directories were updated in mid-June. To see the online directory, use the password. If you would like a PDF copy of the offline directory, please email Cindy Hampel at cindy.m.hampel@gmail.com.

Monthly Pearl

"When writing about things you do not know, remember research is only one significant part of the process. Limit time spent and avoid getting distracted by non-essential data. Think again about clicking on extra links or conducting lots of interviews before actually writing. You can explore other areas of interest after meeting your deadline."

Past President Darlene House

Genre: Journalism

Copyright © 2021
Detroit Working Writers
All Rights Reserved

Cindy Hampel
DWW Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 1105
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1105

